

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) An auxiliary material which is for use on a copper foil surface of a copper-clad laminate when a penetration hole is made in the copper-clad laminate with a carbon dioxide gas laser by irradiating the copper foil surface with an energy of 20 to 60 mJ/pulse sufficient by means of the pulse oscillation of a carbon dioxide gas laser, and which is a coating ~~or a sheet of an organic substance~~ a water-soluble resin composition containing 3 to 97 % by volume of at least one powder selected from the group consisting of a metal compound powder, having a melting point of at least 900°C and a bond energy of at least 300 KJ/mol, a carbon powder and metal powder.

Claim 14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The auxiliary material according to claim 13, wherein the sheet is a product formed by bonding a water-soluble resin composition to one surface of a thermoplastic film.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The auxiliary material according to claim 15, wherein the sheet is a product in which the total thickness of the layer of the water-soluble resin composition and the thermoplastic film is 30 to 200 μm .

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The auxiliary material according to claim 15, wherein the sheet is used by disposing the layer of the water-soluble resin composition on the copper foil surface side and laminating the layer of the water-soluble resin composition to the copper foil under heat and pressure.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The auxiliary material according to claim 15, wherein the sheet is used by wetting the surface of the layer of the water-soluble resin composition 3 μm or less deep with water in advance, disposing the layer of the water-soluble resin composition on the copper foil surface side and laminating under pressure at room temperature.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) A backup sheet for making a hole with a carbon dioxide gas laser, which is for use on a reverse outermost copper foil surface of a copper-clad laminate

when a hole is made in the copper-clad laminate with a carbon dioxide gas laser by irradiating a front copper foil surface with an energy of 20 to 60 mJ/pulse by means of the pulse oscillation of a carbon dioxide gas laser and which comprises a 20 to 200 μm thick resin layer of a water-soluble resin composition and a metal plate.

Claim 20 (Cancelled)